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Four Staff Members Of The Times to Get George Polk Awards

Long Island University yesterday announced the winners of the 34th annual George Polk Awards in Journalism.

The Polk prize for foreign reporting went to John Darnton of The New York Times "for reporting the complex story of the Polish crisis with discernment and clarity."

Honored for national reporting were Seymour M. Hersh, Jeff Gerth and Philip Taubman of The Times for exposing illegal activities of former intelligence agents selling munitions and sophisticated technology in countries hostile to the United States. Mr. Hersh won a Polk award for a record fourth time.

The award consists of an engraved scroll.

A special award was given to George Seldes, a former Chicago Tribune correspondent who is now 91 years old and living in Vermont, for a career including "18 books exposing abuses by big business" and a newsletter, In Fact, "through which he challenged the integrity of the press."

The awards are given in memory of a CBS correspondent killed mysteriously in 1948 while he was covering the Greek civil war. The other awards included these:

Regional Reporting — Stephanie Saul and W. Stevens Ricks of The Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger for "Mississippi Gulf Coast: Wide Open and Wicked."

Local Reporting — The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel-Star for "The Federal Impact."

Consumer Reporting — Phil Norman of The Courier-Journal in Louisville, Ky., for "Sacred Cows: Power, Politics and Prices in the Milk Industry."

Magazine Reporting — William Greider in The Atlantic Monthly for "The Education of David Stockman."

Book — Edwin R. Bayley of The University of Wisconsin Press for "Joe McCarthy and the Press."

Science Reporting — Science, a publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, for "News and Comment."

Television Documentary — Pierre Salinger of ABC News for "America Held Hostage: The Secret Negotiations."

Television Reporting — Ted Koppel of ABC News for "Nightline."

Radio Reporting — John Merrow of the Institute for Educational Leadership and National Public Radio for "Juvenile Crime and Juvenile Justice."